

most welfare recipients want is an opportunity to work—not a welfare check!

This bill, Mr. Speaker, does nothing to empower people. It does nothing to address those very important secondary impediments to welfare mothers going to work, the need for day care for their children so they can go to work, and the need for health care for their children.

Further, Mr. Speaker, the bill fails to invest the resources in job training and education necessary to equip welfare mothers to compete for the jobs that are available.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the only thing this bill guarantees to our children, is that once their parents have used their allotted benefits—that's it! There is no other safety net for these families or their children.

So no matter what happens to the Nation's economy or the economy of your State, no matter what happens with your personal circumstances, regardless of your efforts to secure employment, that is it—no more benefits.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would abolish the entitlement status of those essential programs that protect our children from hunger and homelessness.

What this means, Mr. Speaker, is that no longer are poor children guaranteed that they will grow up with a roof over their head and food in their mouths.

In fact what our children are guaranteed, Mr. Speaker, is that their basic health and nutrition needs will now be subject to individual State priorities and each new Congress views about their mothers and their willingness to work.

What we have done in this bill, Mr. Speaker, is to decide that welfare and single mothers and their children are the root of all evil in this society and if we are to ever balance the budget we must get these pariahs off the rolls.

The reality, Mr. Speaker, is that 70 percent of all welfare recipients are off welfare in 2 years and only 12 percent of all welfare recipients stay on welfare more than 5 years. So why this body would base welfare policy on the 12 percent of people who have not, will not or cannot get off welfare is beyond me.

This bill would require, or as we like to say in Washington—mandate—that States deny AFDC permanently to families where the children were born after this bill's passage to unmarried mothers younger than 18. States would also have the option to deny assistance to children born to unmarried mothers younger than 21.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would allow States to eliminate all cash benefits to families who have received aid for 2 years and—permanently—bar such families from any future aid if the parent had participated in the work program for at least 1 year. After 5 years, States would be required/or mandated to terminate permanently the family from cash assistance.

The State even if it wanted to continue cash payments would be directed by Washington to deny this benefit.

In both of these cases, Mr. Speaker, the Contract on Americans would allow children and families to be left without any cash help or a public service job even when the parent was willing to work but unable to find private sector employment.

An even more ominous provision in this assault on America's children, Mr. Speaker, would take the savings generated by denying assistance to unmarried teens and their children, and use those same funds to build orphanages for those children or group homes for those children and their teen parents rendered destitute by this bill.

Mr. Speaker, it is open season on poor American children and the people sent here to protect them are running roughshod over them with careless indifference or conscious disregard.

My district, Mr. Speaker, has 61,000 children living below the poverty line. I am not interested in orphanages and group homes, I am interested in jobs that will employ the parents of these children.

What is required, Mr. Speaker, is an honest appraisal, free of finger pointing, free of race baiting, free of vitriolic attacks on lobbyless women and children, and most important, Mr. Speaker, a real commitment to creating jobs.

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An even more ominous provision in this assault on America's children is that it would take the savings generated by denying assistance to the unmarried teens and their children. As we debate this issue coming up next week on the floor of the House, let's take a hard look at the Personal Responsibility Act and hold it responsible.

PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF HOUSE FROM TODAY UNTIL TUESDAY NEXT AND ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE FROM TODAY UNTIL WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 30) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 30

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, February 16, 1995, it stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 1995, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, February 16, 1995, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader or his designee, in accordance with this resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon, or at such time on that day as may be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, on Wednesday,

February 22, 1995, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, it is certainly exciting to see what has been happening in this town since January 4. It seems for the past 40 or so years we have had an institution in Congress that was not responsive to the needs of Americans across the country; that did not seem to care about what was going on in the lives of middle class Americans, from Maine to California, from Florida to Washington State. In fact, things had gotten so bad that just a few months back only 18 percent of Americans thought Congress was doing a good job.

Today, only a month and a half after the 104th Congress convened on January 4th, almost 50 percent of Americans now believe Congress is doing a good job and we are on the right track. And for good reason. Look what has happened.

Of course, there are things we have not addressed yet. There are problems we have not had time to work out. But let us look at what we have done in just a few short weeks.

We have undertaken real institutional reform, reform that all Americans are in favor of, even the most simple basic reform that Congresses in the past have ignored. They have not listened to what Americans have wanted.

We started with the Shays Act. The first day it was passed, and it is an act that makes Congress abide by the same rules and regulations that they force on individuals, on families, on businesses, on States, on the rest of America. I cannot tell you how many times I heard people across my district and across the country pound their fist into their hands, angry, saying why can they pass laws, and then conveniently exempt themselves from it? What makes Congress and the Members of Congress feel so arrogant that they somehow believe that they are above the law? Why does Congress not do what the overwhelming majority of the American people want them to do. Is this not a representative democracy?